

# JAMESTOWN PETERBOROUGH FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

## 2026 JUNIOR FOOTBALL POLICY

SENIOR COLTS, JUNIOR COLTS, & MINI GRADES.

### Our commitment

We believe that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable, inclusive and maximise individual participation. Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport.

### What we will do:

- Promote fair play and participation as primary objectives for minis and sub minis
- Modify rules and equipment, when possible, to include children and young people of all abilities and encourage their participation.
- Try to match mini aged players with their size and ability not necessarily their age. (Players will be given the opportunity to play up and down in the different age brackets for the minis and sub minis as needed)
- Provide players opportunity to play in a range of positions
- As players get older, they may be supported to develop position specific skill and strategy but will still be considered as available for any role on the field come game day.
- The Club will foster an inclusive environment, encouraging both boys and girls to participate.

### What we ask you to do

#### Players

- Demonstrate a positive attitude and commitment, be respectful of team mates and coaching staff, umpires and officials.
- Contribute to your team by giving 100% at trainings and matches, and be open to taking on volunteer roles and tasks at the club.
- Fulfill rostered jobs, if you are unavailable for your rostered jobs, please arrange a swap, if you don't feel confident to take on the job, please ask your team manager to support you with learning the task. Failure to fulfill a rostered job may jeopardise selection the following week.
- Players should communicate directly with their coach if there is anything that is likely to affect their availability or performance ie injury (or this can be done by the parent).

#### Coaches

- Promote a positive attitude.
- Provide challenges based on individual player development.
- Give the team every opportunity to be competitive.
- Model positive interactions and resilience.
- Promote inclusion.
- Be supportive in the quest for developing umpires through positive feedback.
- If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g., rotations, playing time or participation).
- Where on field coaching is permitted (Minis), understand your role and positioning.
- Off field coaching requires the use of a runner (Junior and Senior Colts).
- Coach in a manner which ensures that the safety and welfare of the players is of the utmost importance.
- Use respectful language at all times

## Parents

- Familiarise yourself with all aspects of this policy
- Communicate respectfully and work together with coaches/team managers and trainers.
- Foster independence in your child by encouraging them to take ownership of their performance.
- Develop resilience together with your child, focus on effort, not the score, encourage them to embrace challenges and give maximum effort.
- Positively encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the selection decisions of the coach. If at any point you feel the need to query decisions, please contact your child's team manager. If you have a grievance that cannot be resolved through communication with the team manager, please contact the club Coaching Coordinator.
- Model positive behaviours, display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, officials, parents, volunteers, and spectators. Remember most roles are filled by volunteers.
- Communicate with coaches if there is anything that will affect your child's availability for games or their performance on game day ie injury.
- Fulfil rostered jobs. If you are unavailable for a rostered job, please arrange your own swap. If you don't feel confident to undertake the job, please ask for someone to show you how it is done. There will always be someone available to work with you to learn a variety of tasks.

## Minis & Sub Minis:

### Goals of non-competitive programs

- Begin to develop skills specific to football whilst being a fun and inclusive program.
- Introduction to what it means to be a part of team.
- Provide a range of opportunities for player development and understanding of the game.

### Team selection

- Minis and Sub Minis will be born in years **2014-2018** inclusive
- Girls get a one-year exemption to play minis football, so can be born in **2013**.
- Some exceptions may be possible, based on individual cases, gender, and year level numbers.

### Training

Training is fun, inclusive and challenges all players at their individual levels of development. All players are expected to attend training and if they can't please contact the coach.

### Games

Saturday games give everyone the exposure, experience, and enjoyment of game situations. All players where possible will get equal playing time throughout the season.

## Junior Colts:

- For the 2026 season, Junior Colts are born in years **2012 – 2014\***

\***2014** born children are Minis, SANFL allow to play Junior Colts without a requirement for an armband. These children are permitted to play both minis and junior colts on game day (subject to parent approval). If not all **2014** born children are required in the junior colts team, they will be rotated through, given equal opportunity across the season.

- **2015** born children will only be asked to play if all older players have already been selected. These requests will be at the discretion of the coach, and with approval from the selected child's parents.
- As new SANFL rulings state, girls now will follow the same age bracket as boys.
- Teams are selected by the coach and team manager.

- The Football Committee Junior Representative may be utilised as a resource if required by the selectors and coach.
- Any individual cases which require exceptions to the Junior & Mini age criteria require a permit from the Northern Areas Football Association (NAFA)

### ***Training***

- Training will be inclusive and challenge all players at their individual level of development.
- Non-attendance at training will impact on field time if not advised prior to the training session.
- Coaches will acknowledge the difference between bereavement and chosen absences in comparison to not notifying the coach if they are unable to attend training.
- Attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team for matches.

### ***Team selection & playing time.***

#### ***Minor rounds:***

- Game time across the season will be allocated firstly according to age, meaning that older players should expect to regularly be playing the majority of game time. Younger players may expect to have less game time. This will ultimately be at the discretion of the coach, with the intent being fairness for all players over the season regardless of their level of skill.
- All players will continue to get exposure in a range of positions and may begin to focus and develop in a mid-field, defensive or offensive role.
- If team lists extend beyond the number of players required to play (maximum 22), players will be required to be rostered off each week during the season or may be asked to play for the opposing team if they are short.
- If possible, Coaches and Team Managers should give parents and players the opportunity to advise in advance, any times of unavailability to ensure these games missed are counted as games rostered off.

#### ***Finals:***

- All selected players will take the field/oval.
- Older children will be given preference but may not always be picked in front of a younger aged Junior Colt player.

### ***Senior Colts:***

- As deemed by NAFA a Senior Colt player is born in 2009-2011 inclusive (U17)
- If more players are required to form a team, willing 2012 born players will be asked to fill vacancies.
- Girls are unable to play Senior Colts as per current NAFA Rules.
- Teams are selected by the coach and team manager.
- The Football Committee Junior Representative may be utilised as a resource if required by the selectors and coach.
- Any individual cases which require exceptions to the age criteria require a permit from NAFA.

### ***Training***

- Training will be inclusive and challenge all players at their individual level of development.
- Non-attendance at training will impact on field time if not advised, and attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team for matches.
- Coaches will acknowledge the difference between bereavement and chosen absences in comparison to not notifying the coach if they are unable to attend training.

### ***Team selection & playing time.***

#### ***Minor & Final rounds:***

- Field time is at the coach's discretion
- Players may begin to focus and develop in a mid-field, defensive or offensive role.
- If team lists extend beyond the number of players required to play, players will be required to be rostered off each week during the season.
- If possible, Coaches and Team Managers should give parents and players the opportunity to advise in advance, any times of unavailability to ensure these games missed are counted as games rostered off.

## Further Information:

**Exemptions:** If a player's level of development and confidence requires them to remain in a lower grade an exemption can be applied for through NAFA after discussion with the Jamestown Peterborough Football Committee and family.

**Concussion:** As a club affiliated with the SANFL and AFL, we operate in accordance with their concussion guidelines, this is detailed in their document "[The Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australia Football](#)". You can click on this link to view the document <https://play.afl/clubhelp/resources/afl-community-concussion-guidelines#article-0>

Any player suspected of having sustained a concussion will be assessed at the time of the injury by the club's accredited trainers (if a medical practitioner is not available). If a trainer suspects that a concussion may have occurred, the player will be removed from the match or training and referred for medical assessment in accordance with the AFL Community Concussion Guidelines. As listed in these guidelines, a player will provisionally miss 3 weeks of games. If as a result of the medical assessment the player is deemed not to have incurred a concussion, the player will not be required to miss 3 weeks of games.

In accordance with this policy a completed Medical Clearance Form called "Return to Play Clearance Form" will need to be presented prior to returning to play and full contact training.

It is strongly recommended that any player suspected by a trainer of having a concussion injury seek medical advice as soon as practical and preferably within 12 hours of the injury. Parents and players must be respectful of the trainer's assessment and referral and remember that the player's welfare is the trainer's primary concern.

**Respect for the trainer and their decision is paramount.**

**Junior & Mini Carnivals:** Selection for carnival teams will be based on age. In the event of large numbers, older players will be given preference.

**Conflict Resolution and Grievances:** In the event of concerns/ grievances with our selection process. Please refer to the JPFNC Conflict Resolution and Grievance policy. *The policy will be reviewed annually at the AGM of the Jamestown Peterborough Football Committee.*

## Heat Rules for Junior and Youth Trainings

As a club affiliated with the SANFL and AFL, we operate in accordance with the SANFL Heat Policies, this is detailed in their document "[SANFL Heat Policies](#)".

Key details of this policy include:

### ***"Community Club - Junior and Youth Training (5-18 years)***

*Clubs and/or participating parties shall check the forecast temperature on the day prior to training session.*

*Information should be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)). In the instance of conflicting information, information obtained directly from [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) will be considered the most accurate.*

*Based on the forecast temperatures, the following action is recommended;*

**Ambient Temperature      Risk of Heat Illness      Recommended Action**

26°-30°C	Moderate	<i>Modify early pre-season training. Reduce intensity and duration of session. Increase frequency and length of breaks. Ensure adequate water supplies are available.</i>
31°-35°C	High - Very High	<i>Limit intensity. Maximum duration of 60min. Increase frequency and length of breaks. Ensure adequate water supplies are available</i>
36°C and above	Extreme	<i>Postpone until conditions cool. Cancel if necessary."</i>

Parents will be notified the day prior to assist in travel arrangements.

Full details of this policy can be found by clicking on this link:

<https://sanfl-content.imgix.net/content/uploads/2019/02/26084712/SANFL-Heat-Policy.pdf>

**Mouthguards:** Mouthguards have a definite role in preventing injuries to the teeth and face and for this reason they are strongly recommended at all levels of football.

Mouthguards should be worn for all games and training sessions.

Dentally fitted laminated mouthguards offer the best protection. 'Boil and bite' type mouthguards are not recommended for any level of play as they can dislodge during play and block the airway.

There is some preliminary scientific evidence that mouthguards may prevent concussion or other brain injuries in Australian Football.

### **Safeguarding Children and Young People**

The Jamestown Peterborough Football and Netball Club Inc as an affiliated club of SANFL fully endorse the SANFL Member Protection Policy and Principles for Safeguarding Children and Young People.

This information can be viewed by clicking these links:

SANFL Safeguarding Children and Young People

<https://sanfl-content.imgix.net/content/uploads/2024/05/03141602/SANFL-Safeguarding-Children-and-Young-People-DHS-WWCC-Update.pdf>

SANFL Member Protection Policy

<https://sanfl-content.imgix.net/content/uploads/2021/04/27140341/BMS-HRS-POL-0001-013-Member-Protection-Policy-042021.pdf>

This includes key areas such as the usage of phones, which are prohibited from usage inside changing rooms as per the following extract from the member protection policy:

*"To respect people's privacy, we do not allow camera phones, videos and cameras to be used inside changing areas".*

We (Parents/Guardians) \_\_\_\_\_

of the playing member(s) \_\_\_\_\_,

have read and understood the 2026 Junior Football policy and will abide by it as parents or guardians of the playing member(s) of the Jamestown & Peterborough Football and Netball Club.

Signature (Parents/Guardians):\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Senior Colt Player):\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_